

December 13, 1984

TO: File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Permit Supervisor/Reclamation
Hydrologist *DWH*

RE: American Consolidated Mining Company, DOE/O45/O26,
Tooele County, Utah *ACT/O45/O19 and*

On December 11, 1984, Division staff members Sue Linner, Tom Tetting, Dave Hooper and Wayne Hedberg made a field inspection to the abandoned mill site of Clifton, Utah, to ascertain the status of a complaint received from Mr. Cecil Woodman of Callao, Utah. Mr. Woodman discussed with Division representatives the subleasing of some claims which he possessed to a Mr. Bill Moeller of American Consolidated Mining Company. Mr. Moeller has been utilizing the leased properties on an intermittent basis. Mr. Woodman explained that Mr. Moeller had been moving some of the equipment from the mill site and old operations at Callao, Utah, to a new location at an abandoned milling operation site at Clifton, Utah. Mr. Woodman further explained that he was concerned over the cyanide leaching process which American Consolidated under the direction of Mr. Bill Moeller was utilizing at the site. An on-site investigation of these alleged by Division representatives yielded an unpermitted operation at the old Clifton mill site. Upon closer inspection of the area, the following activities were noted.

A leaching system had been set up adjacent to an ephemeral drainage. This system consisted of a graded leaching pad, which had a series of small crushed ore stockpiles to a system of two or three plastic lined ponds.

A system of PVC piping, approximately two inches in diameter was apparently being used to transmit water from a plastic storage tank located approximately 200 yards updrainage from the leach pad area. Underground water was directed to this open plastic storage tank from a pipeline and submersible pump originating from an old mine adit adjacent to the storage tank. The water level inside the adit was approximately 20-30 feet below the entrance to the same. The two inch plastic pipe which led from the storage tank to the leaching operation was directed down an ephemeral channel adjacent to the leaching site. Upon inspection of the pipeline leading to the leach pad, it was noted that this line had a section which was broken in several sections making the system ineffective in its present state. There was a sprinkling system set up on top of the crushed ore piles on the leach pad. The entire leaching complex was enclosed by a wire fence with warning signs posted in various locations.

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Also located on-site, were two mobile trailers, a storage shed, a large diesel generator and assorted pieces of processing equipment and hardware. It did not appear that the leaching facilities had been used very recently; however, there were recent signs of vehicular access to the site. There is another open decline adjacent to the leaching facility which can be easily entered. No water was noted from observations at the entrance.

A series of recent disturbances and excavations in an adjacent drainage were also noted. Cumulatively, these disturbances were estimated to be at least two acres in size.

Approximately 300 yards updrainage from the leach pad facility is an abandoned building which contains a large number of 1 1/2 diameter inch boxed core samples. It seemed highly questionable to the staff whether this site would qualify under a Declaration of Exemption (DOE) status and decided that the company should be contacted as soon as possible for more information and clarification of this unpermitted activity.

btb
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